

Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes March 5, 2015  
Black Bear Resort Port McNeill, BC  
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Attendance:** Kelly McMahon, WFP, Trevor Egely, WFP, Jon Lok, Small Contractor, Bill Nelson, Logging Contractor, Stu Ellis, General Public

**Advisors:** Paul Barolet, Advisor, MOFLNRO

**Regrets:** Pat English, Local Government

**Presenter:** Trevor Egely, Operations Planner, WFP

**Facilitator:** Annemarie Koch

**Notes:** Kelly McMahon and Annemarie Koch

**1. Introduction and Safety Procedures:**

Annemarie reviewed the safety procedures to follow in the event of a fire or medical emergency.

Annemarie reviewed the objectives of the meeting, namely:

- To review the previous meeting minutes and selected action items;
- To hear a presentation by WFP Operations Planer Trevor Egely on Englewood's 20 Year Plan;
- To review a draft outline of the October 22 joint meeting session with VINWAG;
- To confirm the schedule of meetings in 2015, and;
- To confirm the date and content of the next meeting.

**2. Review of Minutes and Action Items:**

Annemarie reviewed the minutes and action items from the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. She reminded NWAC members that she would be assuming they had read the minutes prior to the meeting. There were no additions or changes to the minutes. She added that she would not be addressing action items that were ongoing but only items that were to be addressed in the shorter term. Given this, Annemarie noted that there were five action items to address from the February 12th meeting.

Annemarie reviewed the action items from previous meetings, bringing attention to five items which had recently been completed, or for which action was required in the short term, or for which reports were available.

**Action Item 1:** to follow up and see the feasibility of combining a number of targets for Indicator 5.1.1 that better reflect the economic and community benefits generated specifically in this DFA. It was agreed that Kelly should work with Jack and Bill to develop an additional target for Indicator 5.1.1 that shows Englewood's productivity in relation to other divisions in WFP

**Responsibility:** Kelly/Jack/Bill

**Due Date:** April 9,2015

**Action Item 2:** Determine the feasibility of a cross division PAG meeting- in Port McNeill-just had an all PAG meeting in Powell River September 26-27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Responsibility-** Kelly and Trevor

**Due Date-** ongoing in 2015

**Action Item 3:** Look at ways and means of generating greater awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of preventing loss of petroleum products such as oil.

**Responsibility:** Trevor/Kelly/Jack

**Due Date:** Ongoing.

**Action Item 4:** Solicit new members, and print a press release, highlighting the efforts of NWAC in the North Island Gazette.

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date: January,2015** after a new Town council representative is appointed and combine with solicitation of a new Mount Cain representative

Kelly noted that she had placed the ad and that it would be coming out in next week's Gazette. She explained that the ad covered the role and mandate of the group and provided contact information in the event that readers might be interested in joining or providing input, or seeking further information.

**Action Item 5:** Refine Indicator 5.2.2 to include a greater scope of training opportunities available in the DFA, including training provided through contractors. Inclusion of the training completed by Bill 13 contractors. Information can come from the safety council audit at Randy's suggestion.

**Responsibility:** Kelly McMahon

**Due Date:** March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Action Item 6:** Provide a presentation WFP's 20 year plan.

**Responsibility:** Kelly and Trevor

**Due Date:** Sometime in 2015. It was agreed later in the meeting that this presentation be given by Trevor at the March,2015 meeting.

It was noted that this presentation was being delivered at the meeting.

**Action Item 7:** Support Youth Forestry Initiative

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due date:** Next meeting

Annemarie noted that Fred Robertson had provided an update on the high school forestry training program at the February 26<sup>th</sup> VINWAG meeting and that the school district was planning to post a teacher position for the program this spring and was targeting a start

date this fall. She referenced the hard copy of the draft program outline that had been circulated to members at the meeting. She encouraged NWAC members to follow the progress of the educational initiative and to provide input through Kelly or her or Fred Robertson.

**Action Item 8:** Continue to discuss membership and representation on NWAC to ensure that vacant sectors are filled and to see if any new sectors should be added.

**Responsibility:** Kelly and Annemarie

**Due Date:** ongoing

**Action Item 9:** Follow up with Jay Dixon to see if he can help solicit a representative for the Town of Port McNeill on NWAC and if he will help to source a youth representative for NWAC and help to find ways to engage youth with NWAC.

**Responsibility:** Annemarie Koch

**Due Date:** March 5, 2015 Meeting

Annemarie noted she had approached the Town of Port McNeill for a representative for NWAC and that the request had been responded to and that councilor Graham MacDonald had been appointed.

She added that she had recommended to the school district representatives developing the high school forestry training program that attendance at a public advisory group meeting be a mandatory requirement of the program. She noted that the response to this suggestion had been positive and added that this might be a good compromise to ensure some level of youth involvement in the process.

**Action Item 10:** Develop a draft program for the October 22 panel session.

**Responsibility:** Annemarie Koch

**Due Date:** April 9, 2015

Annemarie noted that she had prepared draft outline for the meeting and that it was on the agenda to follow the presentation on Englewood`s 20 year plan.

Annemarie added that Pat English had not been able to attend the meeting but had asked her to see if anyone in the group would be willing to sit on a steering committee overseeing the development of a heritage park at Woss. She noted that anyone interested should contact Pat directly, and added that steering committee meetings were held once a month in the evening in Woss.

Trevor offered to circulate this invitation generally at a planning/production meeting in Woss.

### **3. Englewood's 20 Year Plan: Trevor Egely, Operations Planner, WFP**

Trevor noted that his presentation would provide an explanation of the internal and external factors which influence forecasting, planning and development processes that occur prior to harvesting and how this relates to the 20 year plan.

Trevor noted that the 20 year plan provides a basis for shorter term plans.

Paul asked how the lack of snow was impacting harvesting plans. Trevor noted that there were many more areas currently open right now for harvesting, right up to the mountain tops in some areas.

Trevor reviewed some of the factors that influence planning, including safety and hazards within the blocks, First Nations and cultural interests, legislation, land use, recreation and enjoyment and wildlife.

Trevor reviewed some of the external regulations that guide decision making, including the Fisheries Act, FRPA, Water Act and Wildlife Act. It was noted that the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (VILUP) still guides the decision making process.

Trevor noted the WFP Documentation which needs to be followed for our Canadian Standard Associations (CSP) requirements. It is the "internal regulation" that guides our decision making process. This includes the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP), Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFM) and the Forest Retention Strategy.

Trevor noted that one of the targets in the planning process is a well-designed cutblock and that this takes into account a number of block level assessments including but not limited to: hydrological, wildlife, archeological, visual impact, terrain, riparian, avalanche, gully, and windthrow.

Trevor reviewed the professional elements of designing a cutblock, including margins, market conditions, costs and resources. He outlined the area of the DFA, starting with a total land base of 150,789 hectares, and then reviewed some of the reductions resulting from constraints on harvesting, including treaty settlement lands, landscape level retention areas such as Old Growth Management Area's (OGMA) and Species at Risk Act (Federal) considerations, Goshawk pressure, and local interest groups that reduce the overall area available for harvest. He noted that, with consideration of riparian areas, the harvest area is reduced even more.

Trevor reviewed the reductions resulting from previously harvested lands highlighting the Nimpkish Valley that has had active harvest for many years. Trevor noted non productive site for timber, highlighting swamps, rocky areas. More constraints on the landbase include archeological sites and recreational areas.

Trevor pointed to seasonal constraints resulting from limitations related to accessing areas above 800 metres in elevation, following this he noted areas greater than 400m in elevation. Trevor noted the fire shutdowns that occur within TFP 37 as a constraint to production.

Trevor noted that all of these limitations leave about 19.3% of the total land base available for harvesting. Trevor pointed to some of the opportunities for harvesting outside the TFL land base, including (future) treaty settlement lands and bidding on British Columbia Timber Sales blocks.

It was noted that the Namgis are currently looking at harvesting 50,000-60,000 cubic metres a year on their long term tenure, and 1,000,000 cubic metres overall over a 20 year period.

There was a general discussion of the joint venture between WFP and the Namgis and which party will carry the responsibilities associated with harvesting and managing the tenure.

**Action Item 11:** Set up a presentation on the TSOL Joint Venture Between WFP and Atli Forest Products for a Future Meeting

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** Early in 2016

Trevor noted that the 20 year plan was currently being refined, based on an analysis of the land base, and using ground, cable and non-conventional harvesting techniques.

There was a discussion of the various types of non-conventional harvesting techniques, including labour intensive skyline techniques vis a vis heli-logging, and the effects of incentives like stumpage rebates. Trevor reviewed the Timber harvest landbase with specific reference to harvesting systems (ground, cable, non-conventional and other).

There was a discussion of the relative benefits of heli-logging versus skylining, including utilization levels.

Trevor reviewed the age class by area breakdown and the types of harvesting used for all harvestable age classes. He stressed the importance of investing in better inventory.

Trevor reviewed the harvest methods for old growth by species. It was noted there is a large amount of old growth hemlock in TFL 37.

Trevor reviewed the second growth harvesting methods by species noting that a high percentage of harvesting of second growth hemlock is cable yarding.

Trevor reviewed the harvest methods based on a five year average.

It was noted that much of the old growth left is at higher elevations and second growth in the valley bottoms, and that this has an effect on seasonal harvesting opportunities.

Trevor reviewed the harvesting levels for old growth versus second growth. He then reviewed the harvesting systems for old growth and second growth moving ahead to 2032. He noted that a large proportion of second growth harvesting will be cable yarding between 2019 and 2022.

It was noted that the longer range plans help to identify the capital and staffing requirements at any given time in future. It was noted that companies need to look at ways and means of keeping their equipment and people working across a spectrum of opportunities in the industry generally over time.

Trevor reviewed the 20 year harvest by species noting, for example, that there is a high component of hemlock and balsam well into the future. It was noted that yellow cedar was a valuable wood and suggested that wider markets be sought for the species, beyond the Japanese market.

It was noted that opportunities needed to be sought in hemlock, given the large quantities in our future.

Jon asked how long the 20 year planning process had been in use. Trevor noted the current metrics were quite recent. Jon asked how close a predictive model the 20 year plan was for determining the two and three year plans. Trevor noted that the longer term plan, given anomalies that can occur in the field, was to within 50-60% accuracy for driving the shorter term plans. He stressed the need again for good inventory as a basis for the planning process.

Trevor reviewed the 20 year harvest by species based only on old growth, noting that the amount of Douglas fir tightens up and hemlock remains high, as well as higher cypress levels.

Trevor reviewed the 20 year harvest by species, based only on second growth, noting the high amounts of hemlock again. It was noted that the average age class at harvest was about 55 years and how this relates to the wood products, such as gang.

There was a discussion of how beneficial it would be to develop a silviculture strategy to parallel the harvesting plan, to ensure a sustainable future.

Paul noted that a significant amount of western white pine had been planted this past year and that alder was being planted as well. There was a discussion of the benefits of planting and marketing alder, with the shorter rotations.

Trevor noted that, historically, the land base dictates the fibre flow, but that there was some consideration for driving the process with the desired products and processing (mill) capacity.

Trevor reviewed the 20 year harvest by season, based on total forest cover, old growth and second growth. He noted that most old growth harvesting is in the summer months, at high elevation.

Jon asked about the sustainable cut level. Trevor noted that a drop in AAC was anticipated in the next management plan. He noted that a total of a 671,000 cubic metre annual cut was anticipated over the next 15 years, including consideration for waste.

There was a discussion of the business optimization model being implemented by WFP.

**Action Item 12:** Distribute a pdf copy of Trevor's presentation to NWAC members

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** With the minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, by March 31<sup>st</sup>

Annemarie thanked Trevor for his presentation.

#### **4. Review of Draft October 22<sup>nd</sup> Joint Session Outline**

Annemarie reviewed a draft outline for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> joint session with VINWAG and invited feedback on the proposed program.

It was agreed that the draft outline should be circulated to NWAC members for further review and consideration at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was recommended that students from the forestry training program that is scheduled to start in September, 2015 be invited to attend the session.

**Action Item 13:** Circulate draft outline of the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to members with the minutes for consideration at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Responsibility:** Kelly

**Due Date:** Distribute with the March 5<sup>th</sup> minutes, by March 31

#### **5. Discussion of 2015 Meeting Schedule**

Annemarie reviewed the 2015 schedule of meetings with members of NWAC and asked for final confirmation so that she could post the schedule on the PAG website. Annemarie noted that the VINWAG meeting schedule was already posted on the website and that NWAC members could look it up there. Nimpkish Woodlands Advisory Committee Meetings for 2015 are:

April 9, May 21, October 8 (Fire Lookout Tower Fieldtrip-ME044 Visuals), October 22 (Joint meeting), November 26

VINWAG 2015 meeting dates are:

April 23, June 4, September 10-11 (field trip and meeting), November 12

Members agreed to confirm the 2015 meeting schedule and post it on the website.

**Action Item 14:** Post 2015 schedule of meetings on PAG website

**Responsibility:** Annemarie Koch

**Due Date:** By March 12, 2015

#### **6. Next Meeting:**

Bill noted that the last two presentations had been very interesting and informative and that he would like to see more of these kinds of presentations and discussions. Annemarie invited NWAC members to suggest similar presentations and opportunities for discussion.

Annemarie noted that the next meeting would be on April 9, 2015 and that Kelly was scheduled to provide a presentation on the 2014 annual report.

Annemarie thanked everyone for coming and bid them a safe journey home.